



GREEN LANTERN WINS THE WAR--BUT AT WHAT PRICE?

ALL NEW!
60¢

NO. 20
APRIL



ALL-STAR SQUADRON



SIX COSTUMED HEROES
IN SEARCH OF COMARE-
HENSLEY-- PERHAPS EVEN
OF THEIR OWN THREATENED
SANTY!

THAT BURN
HAVE GUY--IS
HE KIDDING,
OR WHAT??

DOES THAT IMAGE HE'S
TOSSED AT US LOOK
LIKE HE'S KIDDING,
SPIDER-BREATH?

STOP
FEUDING,
YOU TWO! THIS
IS SERIOUS!

ROB! ARE
THEY ALIVE,
OR--?

I-- CAN'T TELL,
STEEL-- BUT MY
ELECTRONIC EARS
SURE AREN'T PICKING
UP ANY HEARTBEAT!

THEN, WE MAY JUST
HAVE WITNESSED-- THE
LAST LIVING MOMENTS--
OF THE
JUSTICE SOCIETY--!

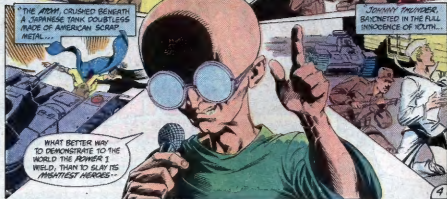
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--BEFORE THEY WERE AWARE I EVEN EXISTED!?

AND NOW, I SHALL PROCEED TO DISPOSE OF THEM FOREVER-- UNLESS YOU ACCEPT MY LITTLE CHALLENGE.

Y-YOU'RE MAD, YOU KNOW THAT? ABSOLUTELY LOONEY-TUNES!

THAT'S NOT THE POINT, IS IT, FIREBRAND?



CHECK, STEEL! THE POINT IS THE LIVES OF THOSE EIGHT PEOPLE SUSPENDED UP THERE!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS, BELLE--

--YOU'VE GOT SIX OF THEM, WITHOUT A CALL!

I FIGURED!



REMEMBER, THOUGH--WE'RE PUTTING OUR OWN LIVES ON THE LINE, THE MOMENT WE--

LEADER-LADY, WE'VE BEEN DOING THAT SINCE DAY ONE OF OUR COSTUMED CAREERS.

JUST SAY THE WORD!

THE WORD IS--



AH, SO YOU LEAP WILLINGLY INTO THE OPEN MAW OF HELL, DO YOU, MY FRIENDS?...

GERONIMO!



THEN FEAST YOUR DOTEN EYES UPON WHAT HELL LOOKS LIKE TO AMERICANS--IN THIS YEAR OF OUR LORD 1942--!

GOOD LORD!

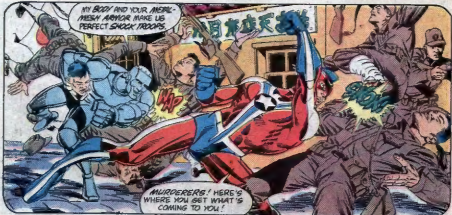
ALL OF A SUDDEN, WE'RE IN--

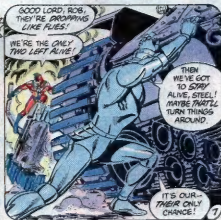


--A JAPANESE CITY?!

NO, JOHNNY! WE'RE INSIDE OUR OWN MINDS NOW--A GUIDED TOUR, COURTESY OF THE BRAIN WAVE!

BUT IT SEEMS SO REAL--AND JUST IN CASE WE NEEDED PROOF THIS ISN'T JUST A MOVIE SET--





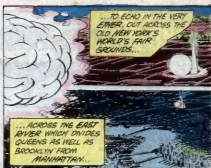




OR, TO PARAPHRASE
A LADY NAMED ASATHA
CHRISTIE--

--AND THEN
THERE WERE
FOURTEEN!

NOW, MAD, MIMICRY
LAUGHTER REVERBER-
ATES THROUGHOUT
THE 200-FOOT
PERISHERE...



...TO ECHO IN THE VERY
ETHER, OUT ACROSS THE
OLD NEW YORK'S
WORLD'S FAIR
GROUNDS...

...ACROSS THE EAST
RIVER WHICH DIVIDES
QUEENS AS WELL AS
BROOKLYN FROM
MANHATTAN...



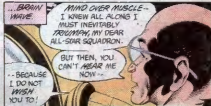
...TO RE-ECHO OVER
WHAT ITS INSULAR-MINDED
INMATES REFER TO AS
"THE CITY"...



... FADING AT LENGTH,
HIGH ATOP A SKYSCRAPER
OVERLOOKING FIFTH
AVENUE.

THE NAME ON THE
DOOR READS: "DR.
HENRY A. KING,
M.D., PH.D.

WE KNOW HIM
BETTER AS...



... BURN
WAVE.

MIND OVER MUSCLE--
I KNEW ALL ALONG I
MUST INEVITABLY
TRIUMPH, MY DEAR
ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

BUT THEN, YOU
CAN'T HEAR ME
NOW--

-- BECAUSE
I DO NOT
WISH
YOU TO!



"WHY SHOULD I TELL
YOU THE SECRET
WHICH A LONELY, INTRO-
VERTED BOY LEARNED,
SOME THREE DECADES
AGO...?"

BOY! KNIGHTS--
LADIES--Jousts! Those
were the days!

I WISH I
COULD
HAVE SEEN
THEM!



"FOR HOURS ON END, THAT LAD
GAVE HIMSELF OVER TO HIS DREAMS,
TILL AT LAST, ONE DAY--

SIR LAUNCELOT
WAS A SWELL
FIGHTER! HE--

YOU CALLED
YOUR MASTER--
AND I HAVE
COME!

HUH?



"THE VISION LASTED MERE
SECONDS, THAT TIME, BUT HE
KNEW HE'D FINALLY SUCCEEDED..."

YIPPEE! I DID IT!
I CAN MAKE 'EM
ALL COME TO
TALK WITH
ME NOW!

I'LL BE LIKE
KING
ARTHUR--

-- WITH
EVERYBODY
BOWING AND
SCRAPING AT
MY FEET!

"AS THE YEARS ROLLED ON, THE BOY ATTENDED COLLEGE, SPECIALIZING IN THE WORKINGS OF THE HUMAN MIND..."

EUREKA! MY LONG YEARS OF SELF-TRAINING HAVE BEARNE FRUIT!

I NOW HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER MY VISUAL THOUGHT-IMAGES! *

* AS SEEN IN ALL-STAR COMICS #15, 1913 -- STILL IN OUR HEROES' FUTURE. -- LEM.

"NATURALLY, I SHOWED MY TEACHERS..."

WHO CALLED ATTILA, LEADER OF THE HUNS, FROM HIS ETERNAL REST?

A-ASTOUNDING! IT MUST BE--MAGG HYPONOTISM!

NO! THERE'S ANOTHER EXPLANATION...

YOU'VE A MARVELOUSLY UNIQUE BRAIN, KING! YOU CAN FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS IN THREE DIMENSIONS.

N-NOW COULD YOU TELL YOUR--ER--FRIEND TO GO?

ATTILA--DISMISSED!

AFTER COLLEGE, I WANTED MONEY--LOTS OF IT! BY THEN, I'D LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MY IMAGES REAL ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY STEAL FOR ME.

"THE FIRST OF THESE WAS AN UN-SCRUPULOUS PHYSICIAN WHO, AS 'DR. ELBA,' WAS INDUCED BY MY IMAGES TO COMMIT CRIMES AS MY FRONT."

'HIS SECRET FORMULA DROVE MEN INSANE, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO DO TO THE FOOL NAMED JOHNNY THUNDER."

SAY YOU COULDN'T DO THAT IF THE MEMBERS OF THE JSA WERE HERE! ; CLP?;

"...WHEN HIS LITERAL-MINDED LIVING THUNDERBOLT GATHERED UP THE SIX OTHER MEN WHO WERE THEN ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY:

JOHNNY MUST BE IN TROUBLE!

-- AGAIN!

RECENTLY, HOWEVER, I DECIDED I PREFERRED TO CONTROL TRUE MEN INSTEAD...

"IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE, ELBA PLUNGED HIS LABORATORY INTO BLACKOVERS."

STAY BACK, GUYS! ANYONE WHO COMES NEAR ME--I'LL DRIVE TO MADNESS!

* DOUBTLESS THE JUSTICE SOCIETY WOULD HAVE CAPTURED MY INEPT TOOL, ANYWAY...

"BUT THUNDER HAD ALREADY SENT FOR NON-MEMBER DR. MID-NITE, A NEW MYSTERY-MAN..."

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE! IN THERE, DOC.

HOOD HOOD

"MID-NITE SWIFTLY DISCOVERED 'ELBA' WAS AN ALIAS FOR A PROFESSOR ABLE HE ALREADY KNEW, THOUGH THAT IS NEITHER HERE NOR THERE, AND..."

I'LL JUST -- MIND! WATCH IT, MAN! YOU JABBED YOUR NEEDLE INTO YOUR OWN ARM!

MIND! ON MY GOD--!

"IN MOMENTS, ABLE WENT MAD--"

-- CRASHING THROUGH A WINDOW TO HIS ROOM-- AND GOOD RIDDANCE TO HIM, SAID I! *

*FORTUNATELY, I HAD BEEN MONITORING EVENTS FROM NEARBY... AND LATER, AFTER ELBA'S BODY HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY...



*THOUGH NOT IN ALL-STAR COMES # 8, 1941, WHERE ABLE/ELBA APPEARED TO BE INDEPENDENTLY EMPLOYED.--LEN.

...WE'RE SHORT A MEMBER, SINCE THE GREEN LAMPYRIN WENT INACTIVE, DOC, SO MAYBE YOU'D--

I'D BE ADMORED

AND MOOTY CAN BE OUR OFFICIAL MASCOT!

UH-- PARDON ME, GENTLEMEN...

HUH? WHO'RE YOU, FELLA?



I AM DR. HENRY KRIM, A PRACTICING PSYCHIATRIST. I--

YOU MUST EXCUSE ME NOW, MY FRIENDS.

SPECTRE-- WHAT--?



OF A SUDDEN, I SENSE ONE OF MY OLD ROEMEN STIRRING IN A DISTANT SPHERE--AND I MUST DEAL WITH HIM!

ER... SURE.

NOW, YOU WERE SAYING, DR. KING?



"EVEN I DO NOT RECALL PRECISELY WHAT ARENARICATION I SPOKE NEXT.

"NOR DOES IT MATTER.



"WHAT MATTERS IS THAT, WHILE I SPOKE, MY POWERFUL MIND WAS ACTING QUITE INDEPENDENTLY OF MY FRAIL PHYSICAL FORM..."



"...TO IMPLANT, DEEP WITHIN THEIR SEVENFOLD SUBCONSCIOUS-- TO USE A LAYMAN'S TERM-- A COMMAND TO COME OBSESSIVELY, WHENEVER CALLED, AT THE SUMMONS OF ONE KNOWN AS THE GREEN HIVE.



I WAS NOT YET PREPARED, SIX MONTHS AGO, TO DO BATTLE WITH SO MANY STRONG-WILLED INDIVIDUALS.

WHICH IS WHY I HAD CREATED THE MENTAL IMAGE WHICH CALLED AWAY THE SPECTRE--THE ONE MEMBER WHO MIGHT HAVE RESISTED MY SUBLIMINAL COMMANDS.

"THEY, OF COURSE, KNEW NOTHING OF WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO THEM."

"BY CHANCE, I ENCOUNTERED MEMBER HIGHWAY AS WELL, SOON AFTER SHE MADE HER DEBUT IN IVAN'S WORLD...

"...AND SHE, TOO, FELL UNDER MY CHARM.



"THUS WHEN, SOME DAYS AGO, I CALLED... EIGHT COLORFUL FIGURES ANSWERED, THOUGH THEY KNEW NOT WHY.

"FROM AS FAR AWAY AS THE DISTANT PACIFIC THEY CAME, TO ARRIVE ALL AT THE SAME MOMENT.



"USING MY POWERS AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, I OVERCAME THEM ALL.

"STILL, OTHERS REMAINED AT LARGE WHO MIGHT HAVE JOINED FORCES TO OPPOSE ME.

"HENCE I APPROACHED THIS LATEST GROUP, AFTER ROBOTMAN'S RECENT TRIAL.

*SEE
ISSUE
#17
--L

"THEY DID NOT TALK WITH ME LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO PLANT POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS IN THEIR MINDS.



"SO, EARLIER TONIGHT, I LURED THEM WITH A CODED MESSAGE FROM THESE VERY HARBORINGS.

WITH THEM NOW AT DEATH'S DOOR, AS WELL, I SHOULD FEEL SECURE TO START MY NEW CAREER OF CRIMES OUT IN THE OPEN, AS I PLANNED.

BUT WHAT OF THE OTHER JSABIS?



FRANKLY, WE WERE WONDERING MORE OR LESS THE SAME THING, SO SINCE EVEN THE BRAIN WAVE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE

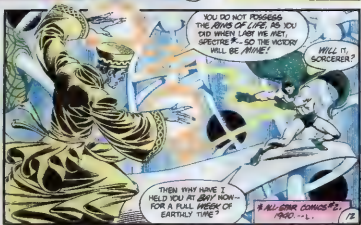
THE SPECTRE, ALAS FOR HIS COSTLY CONFESSIONS, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE--AND THE WORLD'S--IN A DISTANT DIMENSION, AGAINST HIS LONGTIME ENEMY, KODAK, HIGH PRIEST OF BIZNILL...

YOU DO NOT POSSESS THE RINGS OF LIFE, AS YOU DID WHEN LAST WE MET, SPECTRE *- SO THE VICTORY WILL BE MINE!

WILL IT, SORCERER?

THEN WHY HAVE I HELD YOU AT BAY NOW--FOR A FULL WEEK OF EARTHLY TIME?

*ALL-STAR COMICS #2,
1940.--L.

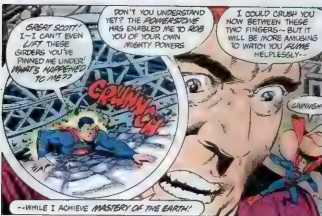




--TO SUMMON MY LONG-DEAD LEGIONS!



IN THIS REALM, HOWEVER, WE CAN DEAL WITH YOU--IN OTHER WAYS!



MORE OF THAT LATER! MEANWHILE, IN ONE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF ABANDONED WAREHOUSES IN GOTHAM CITY

YOU'VE ANNOYED ME FOR THE LAST TIME, BRAT!

WITHIN MINUTES, THE FUMES FROM THAT SULPHUR NEXT TO YOU WILL SMOOTHER YOU LIKE A BLANKET

SLEEP WELL! HA HA! LITTLE JOKE THERE!

DROP DEAD, JOKER!

HE'S GONE-- BUT I'LL BE EVEN SOONER, UNLESS I MANAGE TO CONTACT THE BATMAN IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES!

BUT HOW--?

WAIT! THIS DISCONNECTED PHONE WIRE-- IT'S SPliced AT ONE POINT

IF I CAN JUST-- UNWIND THE TWO PIECES--

THERE! NOW-- GOT TO KEEP TAPPING THE PIECES TOGETHER--

... AND HOPE SOMEBODY PICKS UP MY SOS-- IN TIME!

IN MOMENTS, THE HIGH-POWERED BATMOBILE RACES THROUGH GOTHAM'S DARK, MEAN STREETS...

THERE'S THE ADDRESS THE PHONE COMPANY GAVE ME!

IF I'M TOO LATE-- NO! DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT!

ROBIN!
ROBIN!

HE'S HERE-- BUT HE'S SO STILL-- NOT BREATHING!

ONLY CHANCE IS TO PUMP THE POISON OUT OF HIS LUNGS-- WITH A PULMOTOR!

EXPAND! CONTRACT! SCIENCE STRIVES DESPERATELY TO STEM THE DARK TIDE OF DEATH, UNTIL, ABRUPTLY--

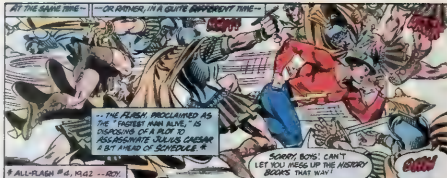
B-BATMAN--?

"THANK GOD-- YOU'RE ALIVE!"

SURE, AN YER A LUCKY LADDY, ROBIN. ME BLANC

* AS RECORDED IN BATMAN #11, 1942. -- R.T.

AT THE SAME TIME-- --OR RATHER, IN A QUITE DIFFERENT TIME--



...THE FLASH, PROCLAIMED AS THE "FASTEST MAN ALIVE," IS DISRUPTING OF A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE JULIUS CAESAR A BIT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.*

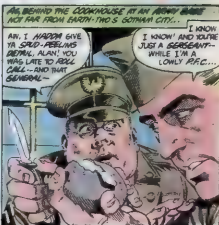
SORRY, BOYS! CAN'T LET YOU MESS UP THE HISTORY BOOKS THAT WAY!

* ALL-FLASH #4, 1942 -- DOY.



NOW, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO ARTZ AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE--AND DEAL WITH A FEW ARTZS THERE--!

HOWEVER, ANOTHER UNPLANNED DETOUR WILL DETOUR HIM--IN ARTZ, AS IT TURNS OUT--



AN, I HADN'T GIVE YA SPUD-FEELING DETAIL, ALAN! YOU WAS LATE TO ROLL CALL--AND THAT SEVERAL--

I KNOW! AND YOU'RE JUST A SERGEANT--WHILE I'M A LOWLY PFC...



BUT, DOBBY, YOU KNOW I WAS ONLY LATE BECAUSE I HAD TO CHANGE CLOTHES-- AFTER I BLASTED THAT ARTZ SEAPLANE OUT OF THE SKY AS THE GREEN LANTERN! *

SURE! AFTER ALL, AIN'T I YER PERSONAL CABBIE WHEN WE AIN'T IN UNIFORM?

HONEST, PAL-- I'LL DO ANYTHIN' TO SQUARE IT W/ Y'ER HOUSE



AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT BATCH, DOBBY I THINK THEY'RE SENDING OVER SOME MORE POTATOES FROM COMPANY B!

WE AN' MY BIG MOUTH!

MAYBE I SHOULD'A STAYED DRIVIN' A HACK!

FUNNY YOU SHOULD VOLUNTEER, OLD BUDDY...

* GL #3, 1942 --R.



JUST ANSWERS, CHUM HERE. LET ME HELP-- ALAN?

-- A MORSE-CODE CHALLENGE TO THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON FROM NEW YORK'S WORLD'S FAIRGROUND, WHICH CEASED BEING BROADCAST ONLY MOMENTS--

WH-ON! I SEE YA MADE YER RINGS VISIBLE!

GOOD LORD!

CHECK! I MAY NOT BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE USA! ANY MORE--

WHATZAT TO YOU, ALAN?

-- BUT I PROMISED LIBERTY BELLE MY HELP. ANY TIME SHE NEEDED IT.

KEEP AN EYE PEELED, OKAY? GOT TO GET SOMETHING FROM MY FOOT LOCKER.

AND I DON'T MEAN A CLEAN PAIR OF SOCKS!

NOW, THE BADGUYS ARE BATHED IN AN EERIE EMERALD LIGHT, AS PRIVATE ALAN SCOTT DONS A FOUR-ARMED MULTI-COLORED COSTUME... TOUCHES HIS RINGS TO THE ANCIENT, GLOWING LANTERN... AND RECITES A GRIM OATH, WHICH CONCLUDES:

"... AND I SHALL SHED MY LIGHT OVER DARK EVIL, FOR THE DARK THINGS CANNOT STAND THE LIGHT...

"...THE LIGHT OF THE GREEN LANTERN!"

AN INSTANT MORE, AND HE IS AURORA, PROPELLED BY NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN HIS OWN FORTHWILDE WILL POWER, ACTING THROUGH HIS MAGICAL POWER RING...

WHATEVER BROADCAST THAT CHALLENGE, HE WAS FEELING PRETTY SURE OF HIMSELF

WITH THE JUSTICE SOCIETY BOYS OFF IN THE SERVICE, HE MUST FIGURE HE'LL FLY RIGHT THROUGH THE SECOND TEAM!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE BRAIN WAVE IS ALREADY FAR BEYOND THAT POINT...

I'VE TOYED LONG ENOUGH WITH THOSE OVER-RATED CARS

IT WILL REQUIRE BUT A SLIGHT ELECTRONIC BOOSTING OF MY INCOMPARABLE BRAIN POWER--

--TO TURN MORE THAN A DOZEN MASKED HEROES INTO 50 NUCH COSTUMED CARRION!



"FOR, AS
I SAID
BEFORE--
ONE DIE,
ALL DIE!

SO WHICH ONE WILL IT BE,
WHO'LL DRAG THE OTHERS
BEHIND HIM INTO DEATH'S
ABYSS?

ROBOT--
HMM, PERHAPS--WHOSE
HUMAN BODY HAS LONG
PRECEDED HIS BRAIN TO
THE GRAVE?

ONE OF THE WOMEN, PERHAPS--
THE FAIRER AND WEAKER SEX?



THE ATOM--
YOUNGEST OF THE
LOT? OR--NO!

I SEE NOW! IT MUST
BE JOHNNY
THUNDER--FOR HIS MIND
IS THE MOST VULNERABLE
OF ALL, BY FAR.

THE SLIGHTEST
PSYCHIC NUZZLE, AND--



OVERWHELMING
THOUGHT WAVES--
EMANATING FROM
INSIDE THE
PERISPHERE!

IN '39 AND
'40, I WENT IN
THROUGH THE
FRONT DOOR,
BUT TONIGHT--



GOOD
LORD!

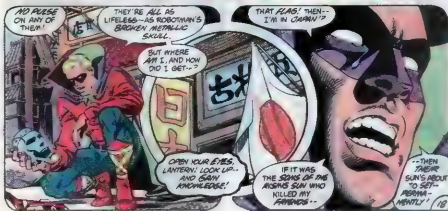
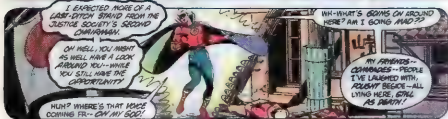
IT'S THE ONE
CALLED THE
GREEN LANTERN--
--ALONE!

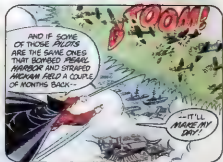
SO MUCH
THE WORSE--
FOR HIM!

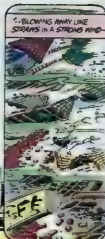
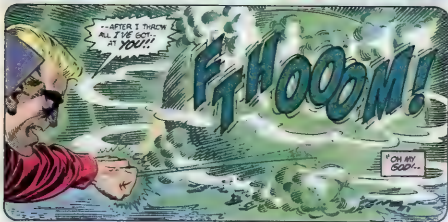


THE ALL-STARS--
AND THE USA--

--LINED
UP LIKE
DUCKS
IN A
SHOOT-
ING
GALLERY!









--INTO MY HEAD-- AUGMENTATION--!

QUESTION: IF THE BRAIN
HADN'T VANISHED MECHANICAL
APPARATUS EXPLODES INTO
SHARDS OF NOTHINGNESS...

...CAN THE HOLO-
GRAPHIC BRAIN--
IMAGINE IT HELPED
CREATE DO OTHER-
WISE?



ONLY MY MENTAL SHIELD--
SAVED ME FROM BEING
KILLED!

BUT, SO
DRAINED--
SO VERY,
VERY
WEAK--



IT WILL BE MONTHS--BEFORE
I'VE GAINED ENOUGH--TO
CHALLENGE THOSE COSTUMED
FOOLS AGAIN

BUT, NEXT
TIME-- I'LL BE
READY TO
DESTROY THEM--



--WITHOUT
THE AID OF--
MACHINES--

YET, AS HIS
PENTHOUSE
SPRINKLER SYSTEM
BEGINS TO DOUBT
THE RAGING FLAMES



...A FIERCE GUSTAW STORM
RAGES, AS IF FROM NOWHERE,
IN THE HEART AND MIND OF THE
MAN CALLED THE GREEN
LANTERN

OH
SWEET
LORD--

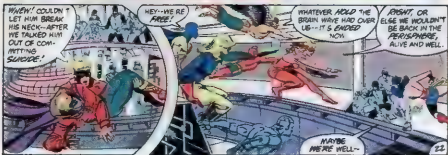
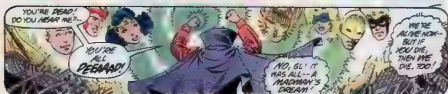
WHAT
HAVE I
DONE?



TO AVENGE A
HANDFUL OF
DEATHS--I
HAD A CHOICE--
BUT HOW CAN I GO
ON LIVING--
KNOWING THE
SLAUGHTER I
UNLEASHED?

IT--IT DIDN'T
SEEM LIKE I
HAD A CHOICE--
BUT HOW CAN I GO
ON LIVING--
KNOWING THE
SLAUGHTER I
UNLEASHED?

NOT JUST
SOLDIERS--
BUT OLD
PEOPLE--
WOMEN--
KIDS--!





--BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GREEN LANTERN?

IF ANYTHING'S
HAPPENED
TO HIM--

HE'S A STROGHS MAN, HAWK--
BUT HE'S BEEN THROUGH HELL
TONIGHT--LITERALLY!

SAVE THE PSYCHOLOGY,
DOC. IS HE--?

EVEN HIS WILL
POWER COULDN'T
WHOLLY CUSHION THE
SHOCK OF SEEING HIM-
SELF, AS A MASS
MURDERER



HIS PULSE IS
EASING BACK
TOWARD
NORMAL.



...BUT, AS THE ARROW
SAID...I CAN'T SPEAK
FOR HIS MIND!

HERE
LET ME.



LANTERN...
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

CAN YOU
SPEAK?

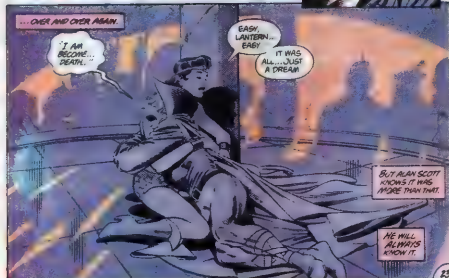
I...

LISTEN!
HE'S--



"I AM BECOME DEATH
THE SWARTHERER OF
WORLDS..."

IT'S ALL
HE SAYS...



...OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

"I AM
BECOME...
DEATH..."

EASY,
LANTERN...
EASY

IT WAS
ALL...JUST
A DREAM

BUT ALAN SCOTT
KNOWS IT WAS
MORE THAN THAT.

HE WILL
ALWAYS
KNOW IT.

NEXT
ISSUE: TWO DEADLY FOES--AND THE BEGINNING OF A MIND-STAGGERING EPIC!
CYCLOTRON AND **DEATHBOLT**

MEANWHILE...

The new DC is on the move! And if our greatly increased comic sales, volume of fan mail and response in the fan press weren't proof enough, the recent pot-shots aimed our way from the editorial pages of our major competitor is the frosting on the cake that provides proof positive. No one will bother to take pot-shots at you unless you represent a threat to their position and/or security. If you expect the fire to be returned from this page though, you're in for a disappointment...that kind of battle is undignified.

I will try, honestly I will, to avoid heavy-handed hype and extravagant promises both in this column and in any promotional or advertising material aimed at you from DC. We know you're constantly bombarded with self-laudatory "look at the wonderfulness of ourselves" kind of advertising from the media and we don't want to add to the overkill. However, I've been in the comics business for better than 30 years and I've never had more fun than I'm having right now and I've never been more enthusiastic about comics and the future of comic books than I am at the moment that I write this and my enthusiasm may on occasion lead me to make glowing statements about this artist or that writer or you new title. If that happens, please have compassion and forgive an old pro for being carried away by having some of his dreams come true!

Speaking of the above, we've just seen the completed first issue of *Rōnin* by Frank Miller and may we say that it's a milestone in comic history...a comic saga that will take your breath away...an unparalleled

event that must be seen to be believed. neat!

Confirmed and special for 1983 checklist #1:

1. **Frank Miller's *Rōnin***. First issue on sale in April. 48 pages, full color, no ads. 6 issues in all.

2. **Green Arrow mini-series**. Mike W. Barr (of *Comet* 3000 fame) and Trevor von Eeden (exciting young artist). First issue on sale February 24. Four issues in all.

3. **DC Comics Presents Annual** by Elliot S. Maggin, Alex Toth and Terry Austin. On sale in April.

4. **Batman Annual** by Mike W. Barr and Michael Golden. On sale this summer.

5. **Atom mini-series: "The Sword of the Atom"** by Jan Strnad and Gil Kane. First issue on sale in May. 4 issues in all.

6. **JLA/Avengers team-up** by Roy Thomas, Gerry Conway and George Perez. On sale in May.

Brooke Shields Visits DC

For just a while recently, the most popular young hero at DC wasn't a member of the **New Teen Titans** or the **Legion of Super-Heroes**. Rather, it was mega-star Brooke Shields, who was here in her role as youth spokesperson for the American Lung Association to help kick off their "Superstuff" program.

"Superstuff" kits are intended for youngsters who have asthma, which is a lung disease that will sometimes leave the sufferer gasping for breath and thinking he or she might be suffocating. "Superstuff" helps kids learn about and live with asthma. Two million kids 16 and under have asthma. We at DC helped in packaging the kits, just another

example of the kinds of things we do that you don't always see. You'll probably be seeing their commercials, which feature our favorite red, blue and yellow-hued Kryptonian proclaiming "Superman helps knock out asthma."

Of course you want to read about Our Miss Brooke. We all were thrilled to have her. She's a very attractive, very soft-spoken gal, and thoroughly pleasant to have around. Part of the press conference involved doing exercises with some asthmatic children, and she stretched and groaned along with them, smiling all the way. We managed to snap a photo of her while she was sneaking a peek at a recent **SUPERMAN**



I want to publicly thank our own Corinda Carlford for her hours of work, taking time to make certain everyone was happy—from Brooke and the kids to anxious parents and busy reporters and photographers. I also want to tip my hat to Roberts Thumim of the American Lung Association, who has worked so closely with us. Roberts asks that any of you who have questions about asthma or "Superstuff" contact your local American Lung Association or Write: American Lung Association, P.O. Box 596DC, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Mike Flynn
Promotion Manager

ALL-STAR COMMENTS

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003

L-1214

THE STORY BEHIND THE, ETC.

We didn't feel last issue, in the middle of this two-part epic, was the place or time to tell you, but *Now It Can Be Told*, as the wartime and postwar melodramas used to say.

The events of ALL-STAR SQUADRON #19 (at least through p. 18, whereon Johnny Thunder's ubiquitous Thunderbolt gathered together the JSAs, Wonder Woman, and various military heads) were based very strongly on events in ALL-STAR COMICS #11, published in 1942 and dealing with the super-heroic aftermath of Pearl Harbor. In that story, Hawkman did indeed repulse a Japanese destroyer-based air raid on San Francisco—Starman reconquered Formosa—Sandman succored the boys on Wake Island in the Pacific—all events which were woefully out of sync with what was really going on in World War Two at the time.

Thus, when the fore-ordained time came to bring the Justice Society (plus Wonder Woman) back into "civilian life," we faced a dilemma. We didn't want to overturn comic-book history when we could help it—but many, if not most, of the events in ALL-STAR COMICS #11 were frankly impossible! So we had to do something.

That something, after due deliberation, was to treat the occurrences in ASC #11 as if they had been, not actual events even on Earth-Two, but the deadly dream-images of Brain Wave—a foe who didn't really meet the JSA face to face till 1943, but who might very well have had such an indirect encounter with them as you've read these past two issues.

And, since we wanted to involve Green Lantern in the action as well, the story just seemed to write itself from that point on, forcing us willy-nilly to the triumph and tragedy you've just witnessed.

What will be the result of it all? We hope you'll stick around and see—also that you'll let us know what you've thought of these past couple of issues, with the full-artistic debut of both Jerry Ordway and Brain Wave (no relation) and perhaps one of the strongest cases in the long and star-spangled career of DC's Golden-Age heroes.

Now, on to a random sampling of the many missives we received on ALL-STAR SQUADRON #14-15, the JLA/JSA/All-Star team-up to end all team-ups (at least till next year!)

—R.T.

Dear Editor:

Well, this year's JLA/JSA team-up certainly shows signs of being a truly memorable five-parter, and it was certainly an intriguing idea to throw in the All-Star Squadron and have it cross over (and back and over and back) to this mag. (And besides, it gives good buddies Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway an "excuse" to collaborate again.)

One thing that's rubbed me the wrong way, though, has been the very nature of the threat posed to the three super-teams. Once again we have Degaton and his time machinations. He goes back in time and changes history, then is pursued through time by our heroes who will then change history again (which history?), etc., etc. This whole idea of changing the past and time travel and so on is really paradoxical and unbelievable. The past is immutable. We all know who won World War II and nothing can change that.

Well, I have to run now. I have a full night of viewing lined up on the *fernsehempfeher*. And speaking of World War II, Channel 6 has that popular POW comedy, "Himmler's Heroes," followed by Part Two of the science series "History of Nuclear Power" featuring the episode titled "The First Atom

Bomb: The Mannheim Project." And I always top off my night with the late news; I watch "Reich Report" (it's so much better than "Fatherland Update," don't you think?)

Ihr ergebener,

"T.M. Maple"

Toronto, Ont., Canada

Hmmm...either longtime letter-writer "T.M. Maple" is pulling DC's collective leg, or else he seems to have wound up by mistake on "Earth-X," the earth created a few years back by ALL-STAR editor Len Wein, on which the Axis powers triumphed in World War II. We sincerely hope he finds his way back to Earth-Prime (or even Earth-One or Earth-Two) at the earliest possible date.

His letter, though, brings out the basic problem and paradox in many time-travel stories. If we assume heroes can change the past, then perhaps the situation which made it possible for them to go into the past might never have come to pass—and if we assume they can't, then the trip is totally futile. The real point, though, it's always seemed to us, is that, if the past was changed, nobody (except possibly those who went into the past and then returned to their own era) would know it—as per Ray Bradbury's classic SF short story, "The Sound of Thunder."

But of course, the whole thing's just a creative and intellectual exercise anyway, right? I mean, they're just comic-books, and we all know the Axis powers didn't win the War. If they had, then we in British Columbia wouldn't have been sitting around our TV's this past week watching the Guy Fawkes' Day celebration, as presided over by Colonial Governor Sir Paul McCartney, eh wat?

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

I'm simply overwhelmed by what you and Gerry Conway are doing this year with the JLA/JSA team-up. What I especially enjoy about this one is that the vast majority of the pages in the first two installments are devoted to setting up the whole scenario. As a result of this development, the super-heroes are not the ones being emphasized this time around, but rather the villains. Hopefully this procedure will continue in years to come. It leads to a better-structured and better-read story. I'm also interested in seeing if this Nuclear (what a name!) will have anything to do with the rest of this epic, or whether he was thrown in for semi-realistic effect or simply for fill-in purposes. I doubt that last reason, though.

Kevin J. Pratt

5632 Press Dr.

New Orleans, LA 70126

And rightly so, Kevin, since the magnificently-inclined Nuclear was the main villain of issue #16, picking up right where he left off! B'wah, you wouldn't be any relation to a 5'2" package of muscle a.k.a. the Earth-Two Atom, would you?

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

I've got one question: The Degaton who appeared in ALL-STAR COMICS #58-59 was a short guy with dark hair; this one has red hair. What happened?

Mike Sopp

438 W. 32

Erie, PA 16506

Sloppy research by the 1970's colorist, it seems to us. A bad-tempered redhead Degaton was born, and that's how he'll die—unless he dyes his hair, instead.

—R.T.

Dear Editor:

"The Mystery-Man of October" was a great installment in the "Crisis on Earth-Prime" series. As always, Adrian and Jerry's art was great. But how did Degaton remember he was a super-villain in ALL-STAR COMICS #37 ("The Injustice Society of the World"), when he had forgotten it by the end of his first appearance in #35, as well as in ALL-STAR SQUADRON #1-3, which took place in between those historic issues? I hope this will be explained in the "Crisis on Earth-

Prime" series. By the way, the All-Star Squadron Fan Club I mentioned to you before now is thriving, and we plan to produce a bimonthly newsletter beginning in September, called ALL-STAR FANDOM.

Anthony R. Cardno
238 Center Drive
Mahopac, NY 10541

Glad to hear it, Anthony. Put all connected regularly with ALL-STAR SQUADRON down for subscriptions, since artist Jerry Ordway, colorist Carl Gaffard, editor Len Wein, and writer Roy Thomas are all big fans of the whole ALL-STAR thing, from 1940 to the indefinite future.

As for the time paradox you mention: It seems obvious to us, though we've never delved deeply into the matter, that some imperfection (or side effect) of the time machine Degaton stole from Professor Zee causes all memory of his attempts at world conquest to be shoved onto the back burner of his mind—but that the right circumstances (such as the series of nightmares culminating in issue #14 of this title) can prod him into remembrance, even if everyone else has forgotten. Just as obviously, something like that happened between the (since reprinted) ALL-STAR #35 and #37 in 1947, or else he'd never have been around to join the Wizard's first Injustice Gang. Who knows? Maybe one of these days we'll tell you that bit of "retroactive continuity" as well... especially now that the Brain Wave, too, has made his premier appearance in ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Keep reading, one and all!

—R.T.

POSTSCRIPT TO "CRISIS ON EARTH-PRIME!":

We knew it had to happen! Because of their frantic schedules, writers Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway let a handful of errors sneak into their five-part crossover story featuring the JLA, JSA, and All-Star Squadron. (At least, a handful that we know about already!) So we thought we'd point them out in one place, so that the more astute among you would have a fighting chance of making some sense out of that epochal epic. To wit:

(1) In JLA #207, page 11, panel 3, the calendar date says "July 1942." This was supposed to be changed to "January 1942," as otherwise it makes no sense for Superman and friends to go back to the latter month; they'd have journeyed to summer of '42 instead. Just a proofreading slip-up, which we hope didn't disturb you unduly.

(2) In ALL-STAR SQUADRON #15, Roy had Firestorm explaining things to some of the JLAers which the latter would already have known. Believe it or not, this occurred because, though the stories were plotted in the right order, they were scripted out of order. Such, alas, are the vagaries of comic-book deadlines.

(3) In ALL-STAR SQUADRON #14, Degaton referred to "dozens" of atomic missiles under his command, while by JLA #209 we said there were only 27. Well, we guess that qualifies as dozens. Just wouldn't want you to think there were lots more A-missiles lurking around back in 1942.

(4) In JLA #209, p. 11, Professors Everson and Zee say their Time Ray machine is nowhere near completion—but of course, ALL-STAR SQUADRON #2 referred to an early JSA case in which it had already been used to go hundreds of years into the future. Guess we should have said it was just out of commission—or did Degaton mess around with time even more than we suspected?

(5) On p. 21, panel 1 of JLA #209, five All-Stars are shown getting out of a cab in Times Square in a situation already covered in ALL-STAR SQUADRON #14—where only three had emerged, the other two showing up later. Maybe you could just cross out the figures of Robotman and Commander Steel? No, we didn't think so.

Well, under the circumstances, maybe that isn't such a bad track record for perhaps the first time that a multi-part story has jumped from book to book, with different writers (two of them) and different artists (five of them). But then, we haven't got around yet to any goof's you might've spotted in 115 pages, right?



ON SALE JANUARY 27, 1983

ACTION COMICS #542—Beginning an exciting new era for an American legend! Momentous developments are afoot, beginning in this issue of ACTION COMICS and continuing in next month's SUPERMAN, and each month beyond that. This is a real change, and it involves nearly every member of the SUPERMAN supporting cast, particularly Lois Lane, Lana Lang, Perry White, Jimmy Olsen, and Steve Lombard. New cast members join as well. Lois leaves SUPERMAN because he finds it easier to commit himself to his career as a costumed hero than it is to commit himself to his love for her. Marv Wolfman writes; Gil Kane does the cover.

DETECTIVE COMICS #525—The rise to power of King Croc. Story by Gerry Conway. The second feature is GREEN ARROW, by Joey Cavalieri, writer, and Irv Novick, penciller. Cover by Ed Hannigan.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #290—Doug Moench, scripter for the World's Finest Team, introducing the menace of Salagor! Adrian Gonzales is this issue's guest penciller.

JONAH HEX #71—While disguised as the famed bandito El Papagayo, Jonah walks into a trap laid by the Mexican Army—a whole division of sharpshooters who readily open fire upon him. The episode is called "Taraputa!" and is written by Michael Fleisher, drawn by Dick Ayers and inked by Tony De Zureña. Cover by Ross Andru and Dick Giordano.

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #40—A chain of unfortunate events, including Ma Kent's disclosure of Clark's secret identity, leads the Boy of Steel to proclaim that he's "Superboy No More." Story by Paul Kupperberg, art by Kurt Schaffenberger. "Shadow Play" is the DUAL H FOR HERO story, plotted by E. Nelson Bridwell, dialogued by Bob Rozakis, and pencilled by Howard Bender.

WEIRD WAR TALES #122—GI ROBOT stars in "Robots Don't Dream" by Robert Kanigher and George Tuska. Cover by Trevor Von Eeden.

ARION, LORD OF ATLANTIS #6—The Atlantean mage stars in another issue guest-written by Doug Moench and drawn by Jon Duersema. Cover by Duersema.

CAPTAIN CARROT AND HIS AMAZING ZOO CREW! #14—The very first—and maybe the only—amazing team-up between the Zoo Crew and the Justa Lotta Animals! Here they are in four-color to feast your eyes upon: Super Squirrel, Blimouise, The Crash, Green Lambkin and Wonder Webbit! They're on Earth-C, you see, and... well, it's kinda hard to explain. The villainous Dr. Hoot and Felina Faust are behind it all—they and Roy Thomas' crew of E. Nelson Bridwell and Scott Shaw! writers, Scott Shaw! and Al Gordon artists, and Scott Shaw! cover artist.

...FOR THE DARK THINGS CANNOT STAND THE LIGHT!

ARE YOU TRULY SO DENSE AND UNWORTHY OF MY SERIOUS ATTENTION, THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO GRASP THE CONCEPT I IMPARTED TO YOU BUT A MOMENT AGO? *

IF YOU MEAN ABOUT THE JSA'S AND WONDER WOMAN NOT BEING DEAD YET-- BUT RIGHT ON THE VERGE--!

VERY GOOD, TARANTULA! GO TO THE HEAD OF A PARTICULARLY UNDISTINGUISHED CLASS.

AS I SAID, THE IMAGES I'VE IMPLANTED IN THEIR MINDS--IMAGES OF THEIR OWN DEATHS AT THE HANDS OF JAPANESE IMPERIAL FORCES-- ARE QUICKLY ROBBING THEM OF THEIR COLLECTIVE WILL TO LIVE...

...AND THE IMMINENT DEATH OF EVEN ONE OF THEM WILL SWIFTLY PULL THE OTHER SEVEN OVER THE EDGE, AS WELL!

THEN WE'VE GOT TO WAKE THEM, SOMEHOW-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

*A MOMENT TO THE BRAIN WAVE--AN ISSUE TO US.--LEN



WHAT DID YOU MEAN, BRAIN WAVE, WHEN YOU SAID WE'D TRY TO SAVE THEM-- AND FAIL??

A tale of the greatest heroes of the world called EARTH-TWO...

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

...in the grim days of early 1942, during the SECOND WORLD WAR!

ROY THOMAS, writer ***** JERRY ORDWAY, Artist
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer • G. D'ANGELO, colorist • LEN WEIN, Editor